(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the people are fearing death every minute inspite of the security arrangements made by Government to counter militant activities in that area; and

(c) what fresh steps have been taken by Government to safeguard the life and property of the people of Taran Taran in Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Government have seen the news-item.

(b) and (c) Facts are being ascertained from the Government of Punjab.

Request for withdrawal of C.E. notification Nos. 223 to 225

2502. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka State Small Scale Industries Association has requested the Ministry for withdrawal of C.E. Notification Nos. 223 to 225 dated 22nd September, 1987; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Association had represented that the changes made in the small scale exemption schemes by Notifications Nos. 223 to 225 dated 22nd September, 1987 would hit the small-scale industries badly and the Notifications should therefore be withdrawn immediately .The changes to the small scale exemption schemes were made with a view to prevent large manufacturers or traders deriving unintended small-scale sector. The suggestion to rescind the notifications has, therefore, not been found acceptable by the Government.

Dead accounts in Nationalised Banks

2503. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of dead accounts in the nationalised banks, Zonewise as on date and the amount involved; and

(b) whether Government have any proposal under their consideration for spending this amount on some welfare programme or on helping the indigent of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Reserve Bank of India have reported that as per the available information with them, the area-wise number of accounts and the amount involved in such unclaimed deposits as denied in section 26 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, lying with the nationalised banks as on 31st December, 1985 were as indicated below:

Area	No. of Accounts	Amount (*Rs. in crores*)
Bombay	12,17 272	12.27
Bangalore	12 91 936	4-57
Calcutta	1,92,148	3 62
Hyderabad	1,19,432	0 47
Madras	1,64,148	1.08
New Delhi	1,70,342	5 07
	31,55,260	27 08

(b) The unclaimed deposits with the banks represent their liability and have to be paid when claimed by the depositors. Since these unclaimed deposits form part of the banks' overall funds, they are already deployed by banks for vari-